GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4889
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
DUES FROM ACCREDITED AGENCIES
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its report No. 2 of 1998 for the year ended 31 March, 1997 in paragraph11.12 regarding deficiency in the system of billing and monitoring of the collection of dues for advertisements, telecast by the accredited agencies and negligence of the Doordarshan Kendras pointed out crores of rupees remaining delayed for months;

(b) if so, whether the Government had look into those matters and taken any action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): Paragraph No. 11.12 of C&AG Report No. 2 of 1998 is on the subject of non-recovery ofoutstanding dues and delays in payment of dues for advertisements telecast by accredited agencies and negligence of Doordarshan in realizing the delayed payments.

(b) & (c): Prasar Bharati have intimated that following steps have been initiated for recovery of outstanding dues:

1. Decentralisation of payments, viz. respective kendras have been authorised to receive payments from agencies.

2. Bills are being raised by kendras within a fortnight and vigorous follow-up action is being taken for recovery of outstanding dues.

3. Agencies with outstandings are being put on advance payment and are being asked to submit the payment plan so as to clear the outstandings in 3-4 instalments

4. No fresh programme/extension of programme is being given to the defaulting agencies.

5. In cases of non-compliance with payment instructions, programmes to be taken off the air with measures for suitable action against the defaulting agency.

(d): Does not arise.